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KEVIN L. RUSSELL
CHERNOFF, VILHAUER, MCCLUNG & STENZEL LLP
1600 ODSOWER
601 SW SECOND AVENUE
PORTLAND, OR 97204

EXAMINER

PILLAI, NAMITHA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2173

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/016,941

Applicant(s)

ERRICO ET AL.

Examiner

Namitha Pillai

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 9-34, 36-56 and 58-86 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 9-34, 36-56 and 58-86 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This Office action is responsive to the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed under 37 CFR §1.53(d) on 1/30/06. Applicants have properly set forth the RCE, which has been entered into the application, and an examination on the merits follows herewith. The Examiner acknowledges Applicant's amendments to claims 1, 29 and 56 to better specify the current invention. All pending claims have been rejected as being obvious over prior art disclosed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-7, 9-34, 36-56 and 58-86 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over "Adjustable Filmstrips and Skims as Abstractions for a Digital Video Library" (Christel et al.), herein referred to as Christel and U. S. Patent No. 6, 880, 171 B1 (Ahmad et al.), herein referred to as Ahmad.

Referring to claims 1 and 2, Christel discloses a method of presenting information regarding a video with a plurality of frames (page 2, column 2, lines 11-19). Christel discloses summarizing a video by identifying a plurality of segments of the video based upon an event (page 4, column 2, lines 28-32). Christel discloses that each of the segments includes a plurality of sequential frames of the video (page 4,

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column 2, lines 8-20). Christel discloses displaying a summarization in a first portion of a display (Figure 5), wherein the first portion discloses a snapshot of a skim and indicating the sequences that make up the skim at the bottom of the window. Christel discloses displaying a graphical user interface on a second portion of the display, sequentially indicating the relative location of the plurality of segments within the summarization relative to at least one other of the segments as each of the plurality of segments is displayed (Figure 5), wherein the second portion displays the match locations in relation to the location of plurality of segments within the summarization. Christel discloses displaying the relative location for a first type of content of the video using a first visual indication (Figure 5), wherein this is represented as the gray blocks at the bottom of the window and displaying the relative location for second type of content of the video using a second visual indication different from the first visual indication (Figure 5), wherein the white lines showing the match locations represents the second visual indication. Christel does not explicitly disclose that the event being captured is characterized by a play, wherein this play is of a sport. It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the event being captured is characterized by a play within a sport. Christel includes all types of video when discussing capturing of important events from a video, wherein based on the content of the video, any important events relevant to that specific video would be captured. Christel discloses that the goal of the invention is to display the essential content of a video, and wherein it is obvious that when the video is that of a sporting event, the essential content would be the plays and hence it would be obvious for

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Christel to captures these plays, wherein these plays are those that are part of a sporting event. Christel does not disclose two different types of semantic events through indicated by two different visual means. Ahmad also discloses obtaining summary data related to video and audio data, with visual means for indicating a relative location for a first type of semantic event in a video data and displaying the relative location for a second type of semantic event in the video using a second visual indication different from the first visual indication (column 16, lines 54-65). It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to learn from Ahmad to teach two different visual indications for two different types of semantic event information. Both Ahmad and Christel disclose systems for summarizing and obtaining relevant data from video and audio data, both further displaying graphical bars for indicating relevant data. Ahmad further displays detailed bar information to indicate different visual means for different types of semantic event data. It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to learn from Ahmad to implement detailed bar data to further provide more detailed information concerning the video and summary data obtained.

Referring to claim 3, Christel discloses a generally rectangular region where each of the plurality of segments is indicated within the generally rectangular region (Figure 5).

Referring to claim 4, Christel discloses that the size of each of the plurality of segments is indicated in a manner such that the plurality of segments with a greater

number of frames are larger than the plurality of segments with a lesser number of frames (Figure 5).

Referring to claim 5, Christel discloses that the size of the regions between each of the plurality of segments is indicated in a manner such that the regions between with a greater number of frames are larger than plurality of segments with a lesser number of frames (Figure 5).

Referring to claim 6, Christel discloses an indicator that indicates the current position within the temporal information of a currently displayed portion of the video (Figure 5).

Referring to claim 7, Christel discloses the indicator changes location relative to the temporal information as the portion of the currently displayed portion of the video changes (Figure 5).

Referring to claim 9, Christel discloses indicating with an indicator the current position within the temporal information of a currently displayed portion of said video and modifying the position of the indicator within the temporal information, which modifies the displayed portion of the video (Figures 5 and 6).

Referring to claim 10, Christel discloses that the indicator is modified to a portion of the video that is not included within the plurality of segments (Figures 5 and 6).

Referring to claim 11, Christel discloses the first type of content and second type of content are selectable by a user for presentation to the user (Figure 5, page 5, column 1, lines 9-12 and Figure 6).

Referring to claim 12, Christel discloses that at least two of the plurality of segments is temporally overlapping (page 4, column 2, lines 26-29).

Referring to claim 13, Christel discloses that the temporally overlapping segments are visually indicated in a manner such that each of the overlapping segments is independently identifiable (page 4, column 2, lines 26-31).

Referring to claim 14, Christel discloses that a user selects a portion of the video not included within the plurality of segments, wherein in response thereto, the system presents one of the plurality of segments (Figure 6).

Referring to claim 15, Christel discloses that one of the plurality of segments is the segment most temporally adjacent to the portion of the video (Figure 6).

Referring to claim 16, Christel discloses that one of the plurality of segments is the next temporally related segment (Figure 6).

Referring to claim 17, Christel discloses that the plurality of segments is the previous temporally related segment (Figure 6).

Referring to claim 18, Christel discloses that a user selects a portion of the video included within the plurality of segments, wherein in response thereto, the system presents the portion of the video from the start thereof (page 5, column 1, lines 5-11).

Referring to claim 19, Christel discloses that a user selects a portion of the video not included within the plurality of segments, wherein in response thereto, the system presents one of the plurality of segments, and wherein the user selects a portion of the video included within the plurality of segments, wherein in response thereto, the system

presents the portion of the video within the plurality of segments (page 5, column 1, lines 5-11 and Figure 6).

Referring to claim 20, Christel discloses that a user selects a portion of the video not included within the plurality of segments, wherein in response thereto, the system presents one of the plurality of segments, and wherein the user selects a portion of the video included within the plurality of segments, wherein in response thereto, the system presents the portion of the video within the plurality of segments starting from the beginning thereof (page 5, column 1, lines 5-11 and Figure 6).

Referring to claim 21, Christel discloses that a user selects a portion of video not included within the plurality of segments, wherein in response thereto, the system presents the selected portion not included within the plurality of segments, and wherein after presenting the selected portion not included within the plurality of segments presents the selected plurality of segments in temporal order without portions of the video not included within the plurality of segments, and wherein the user selects a portion of the video included within the plurality of segments, wherein in response thereto, the system presents the portion of the video within the plurality of segments (page 5, column 1, lines 5-11 and Figure 6).

Referring to claim 22, Christel discloses that the temporal information is hierarchical and is displayed in such a manner to retain a portion of its hierarchical structure (Figure 6).

Referring to claim 23, Christel discloses that temporal information relates to overlapping time periods and the temporal information is displayed in such a manner to

maintain the differentiation of the overlapping time periods (Figure 5 and page 4, column 2, lines 26-31).

Referring to claim 24, Christel discloses that the temporal information is displayed within a time line, wherein the temporal information is presented in a plurality of layers in a direction perpendicular to the length of the time line (Figure 5).

Referring to claim 25, Christel discloses that the temporal information is displayed within a time line, wherein textual information is included within the time line (Figure 6).

Referring to claim 26, Christel discloses that additional textual information is displayed upon selecting a portion of the time line (Figure 6).

Referring to claim 27, Christel discloses that temporal information is displayed together with a time line, wherein additional textual information is displayed together with selecting a portion of the time line (Figure 6).

Referring to claim 28, Christel discloses that temporal information is displayed within a time line, wherein additional audio annotation is presented upon presenting a portion of the time line (page 4, column 1, lines 33-37 and Figure 6).

Referring to claim 29, Christel discloses a method of presenting information regarding a video with a plurality of frames (page 2, column 2, lines 11-19). Christel discloses identifying a plurality of different segments of the video, where each of the segments includes a plurality of frames of the video (page 4, column 2, lines 8-32). Christel discloses displaying, simultaneously with a segment of the video, a graphical user interface including information regarding the temporal location of the segments,

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relative to at least one other of the segments of the video (Figure 5). Christel discloses displaying the temporal location for a first type of content of the video using a first visual indication (Figure 5), wherein this is represented as the gray blocks at the bottom of the window and displaying the temporal location for second type of content of the video using a second visual indication different from the first visual indication (Figure 5), wherein the white lines showing the match locations represents the second visual indication. Christel does not disclose two different types of semantic events through indicated by two different visual means. Ahmad also discloses obtaining summary data related to video and audio data, with visual means for indicating a relative location for a first type of semantic event in a video data and displaying the relative location for a second type of semantic event in the video using a second visual indication different from the first visual indication (column 16, lines 54-65). It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to learn from Ahmad to teach two different visual indications for two different types of semantic event information. Both Ahmad and Christel disclose systems for summarizing and obtaining relevant data from video and audio data, both further displaying graphical bars for indicating relevant data. Ahmad further displays detailed bar information to indicate different visual means for different types of semantic event data. It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to learn from Ahmad to implement detailed bar data to further provide more detailed information concerning the video and summary data obtained.

Referring to claim 30, Christel discloses a generally rectangular region where each of the plurality of segments is indicated within the generally rectangular region (Figure 5).

Referring to claim 31, Christel discloses that the size of each of the plurality of segments is indicated in a manner such that the plurality of segments with a greater number of frames are larger than the plurality of segments with a lesser number of frames (Figure 5).

Referring to claim 32, Christel discloses that the size of the regions between each of the plurality of segments is indicated in a manner such that the regions between with a greater number of frames are larger than plurality of segments with a lesser number of frames (Figure 5).

Referring to claim 33, Christel discloses an indicator that indicates the current position within the temporal information of a currently displayed portion of the video (Figure 5).

Referring to claim 34, Christel discloses the indicator changes location relative to the temporal information as the portion of the currently displayed portion of the video changes (Figure 5).

Referring to claim 36, Christel discloses indicating with an indicator the current position within the temporal information of a currently displayed portion of said video and modifying the position of the indicator within the temporal information, which modifies the displayed portion of the video (Figures 5 and 6).

Referring to claim 37, Christel discloses that the indicator is modified to a portion of the video that is not included within the plurality of segments (Figures 5 and 6).

Referring to claim 38, Christel discloses the first type of content and second type of content are selectable by a user for presentation to the user (Figure 5, page 5, column 1, lines 9-12 and Figure 6).

Referring to claims 39 and 60, Christel discloses that at least two of the plurality of segments is temporally overlapping (page 4, column 2, lines 26-29).

Referring to claims 40 and 61, Christel discloses that the temporally overlapping segments are visually indicated in a manner such that each of the overlapping segments is independently identifiable (page 4, column 2, lines 26-31).

Referring to claim 41, Christel discloses that a user selects a portion of the video not included within the plurality of segments, wherein in response thereto, the system presents one of the plurality of segments (Figure 6).

Referring to claim 42, Christel discloses that one of the plurality of segments is the segment most temporally adjacent to the portion of the video (Figure 6).

Referring to claim 43, Christel discloses that one of the plurality of segments is the next temporally related segment (Figure 6).

Referring to claim 44, Christel discloses that the plurality of segments is the previous temporally related segment (Figure 6).

Referring to claim 45, Christel discloses that a user selects a portion of the video included within the plurality of segments, wherein in response thereto, the system presents the portion of the video from the start thereof (page 5, column 1, lines 5-11).

Referring to claim 46, Christel discloses that a user selects a portion of the video not included within the plurality of segments, wherein in response thereto, the system presents one of the plurality of segments, and wherein the user selects a portion of the video included within the plurality of segments, wherein in response thereto, the system presents the portion of the video within the plurality of segments (page 5, column 1, lines 5-11 and Figure 6).

Referring to claim 47, Christel discloses that a user selects a portion of the video not included within the plurality of segments, wherein in response thereto, the system presents one of the plurality of segments, and wherein the user selects a portion of the video included within the plurality of segments, wherein in response thereto, the system presents the portion of the video within the plurality of segments starting from the beginning thereof (page 5, column 1, lines 5-11 and Figure 6).

Referring to claim 48, Christel discloses that a user selects a portion of video not included within the plurality of segments, wherein in response thereto, the system presents the selected portion not included within the plurality of segments, and wherein after presenting the selected portion not included within the plurality of segments presents the selected plurality of segments in temporal order without portions of the video not included within the plurality of segments, and wherein the user selects a portion of the video included within the plurality of segments, wherein in response thereto, the system presents the portion of the video within the plurality of segments (page 5, column 1, lines 5-11 and Figure 6).

Referring to claim 49, Christel discloses that the temporal information is hierarchical and is displayed in such a manner to retain a portion of its hierarchical structure (Figure 6).

Referring to claim 50, Christel discloses that temporal information relates to overlapping time periods and the temporal information is displayed in such a manner to maintain the differentiation of the overlapping time periods (Figure 5 and page 4, column 2, lines 26-31).

Referring to claims 51 and 72, Christel discloses that the temporal information is displayed within a time line, wherein the temporal information is presented in a plurality of layers in a direction perpendicular to the length of the time line (Figure 5).

Referring to claims 52 and 73, Christel discloses that the temporal information is displayed within a time line, wherein textual information is included within the time line (Figure 6).

Referring to claims 53 and 74, Christel discloses that additional textual information is displayed upon selecting a portion of the time line (Figure 6).

Referring to claims 54 and 75, Christel discloses that temporal information is displayed together with a time line, wherein additional textual information is displayed together with selecting a portion of the time line (Figure 6).

Referring to claims 55 and 76, Christel discloses that temporal information is displayed within a time line, wherein additional audio annotation is presented upon presenting a portion of the time line (page 4, column 1, lines 33-37 and Figure 6).

Referring to claim 56, Christel discloses a method of presenting information regarding audio (page 2, column 2, lines 11-19). Christel discloses identifying a plurality of different segments of the audio, where each of the segments includes a temporal duration of the audio (page 4, column 2, lines 8-32). Christel discloses displaying, simultaneously with the segment of the audio, a graphical user interface including information regarding the temporal location of the segments, relative to at least one other of segment of the audio (Figure 5). Christel discloses displaying the temporal location for a first type of content of the audio using a first visual indication (Figure 5), wherein this is represented as the gray blocks at the bottom of the window and displaying the temporal location for second type of content of the audio using a second visual indication different from the first visual indication (Figure 5), wherein the white lines showing the match locations represents the second visual indication. Christel does not disclose two different types of semantic events through indicated by two different visual means. Ahmad also discloses obtaining summary data related to video and audio data, with visual means for indicating a relative location for a first type of semantic event in a video data and displaying the relative location for a second type of semantic event in the video using a second visual indication different from the first visual indication (column 16, lines 54-65). It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to learn from Ahmad to teach two different visual indications for two different types of semantic event information. Both Ahmad and Christel disclose systems for summarizing and obtaining relevant data from video and audio data, both further displaying graphical bars for indicating relevant data. Ahmad

further displays detailed bar information to indicate different visual means for different types of semantic event data. It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to learn from Ahmad to implement detailed bar data to further provide more detailed information concerning the video and summary data obtained.

Referring to claim 58, Christel discloses indicating with an indicator the current position within the temporal information of a currently displayed portion of said audio and modifying the position of the indicator within the temporal information, which modifies the displayed portion of the audio (Figures 5 and 6).

Referring to claim 59, Christel discloses that the indicator is modified to a portion of the audio that is not included within the plurality of segments (Figures 5 and 6).

Referring to claim 62, Christel discloses that a user selects a portion of the audio not included within the plurality of segments, wherein in response thereto, the system presents one of the plurality of segments (Figure 6).

Referring to claim 63, Christel discloses that one of the plurality of segments is the segment most temporally adjacent to the portion of the audio (Figure 6).

Referring to claim 64, Christel discloses that one of the plurality of segments is the next temporally related segment (Figure 6).

Referring to claim 65, Christel discloses that the plurality of segments is the previous temporally related segment (Figure 6).

Referring to claim 66, Christel discloses that a user selects a portion of the audio included within the plurality of segments, wherein in response thereto, the system presents the portion of the audio from the start thereof (page 5, column 1, lines 5-11).

Referring to claim 67, Christel discloses that a user selects a portion of the audio not included within the plurality of segments, wherein in response thereto, the system presents one of the plurality of segments, and wherein the user selects a portion of the audio included within the plurality of segments, wherein in response thereto, the system presents the portion of the audio within the plurality of segments (page 5, column 1, lines 5-11 and Figure 6).

Referring to claim 68, Christel discloses that a user selects a portion of the audio not included within the plurality of segments, wherein in response thereto, the system presents one of the plurality of segments, and wherein the user selects a portion of the audio included within the plurality of segments, wherein in response thereto, the system presents the portion of the audio within the plurality of segments starting from the beginning thereof (page 5, column 1, lines 5-11 and Figure 6).

Referring to claim 69, Christel discloses that a user selects a portion of audio not included within the plurality of segments, wherein in response thereto, the system presents the selected portion not included within the plurality of segments, and wherein after presenting the selected portion not included within the plurality of segments presents the selected plurality of segments in temporal order without portions of the audio not included within the plurality of segments, and wherein the user selects a portion of the audio included within the plurality of segments, wherein in response thereto, the system presents the portion of the audio within the plurality of segments (page 5, column 1, lines 5-11 and Figure 6).

Referring to claim 70, Christel discloses that the temporal information is hierarchical and is displayed in such a manner to retain a portion of its hierarchical structure (Figure 6).

Referring to claim 71, Christel discloses that temporal information relates to overlapping time periods and the temporal information is displayed in such a manner to maintain the differentiation of the overlapping time periods (Figure 5 and page 4, column 2, lines 26-31).

Referring to claim 77, Christel discloses a user selectable skip function skips a set of frames to a modified location of the video in at least one of a forward temporal direction or a reverse temporal direction, and displays the video at the modified location (Figure 6).

Referring to claim 78, Christel discloses a user selectable skip function skips to a later temporal segment or a previous temporal segment, and displays video at the later temporal segment or the previous temporal segment, respectively (Figure 6).

Referring to claim 79, Christel discloses that a user selectable scan function skips a set of frames to a modified location of the video in at least one of a forward temporal direction or a reverse temporal direction, and displays the video at the modified location, and thereafter automatically skips another set of frames to another modified location of the video in at least one of the forward temporal direction or the reverse temporal direction, and displays the video at another modified location (Figure 6).

Referring to claim 80, Christel discloses that at least one of the forward temporal direction and reverse temporal direction are consistent with the different segments (Figure 6).

Referring to claim 81, Christel discloses that the display of the video is at the start of the respective one of the different segments (Figure 6).

Referring to claim 82, Christel discloses that the display of the video is at a predetermined offset within the respective one of the different segments (Figure 6).

Referring to claim 83, Christel discloses that the graphical user interface displays a respective image associated with at least a plurality of the different segments (Figure 6).

Referring to claim 84, Christel discloses that the respective image associated with the currently presented different segments is visually highlighted (Figure 6).

Referring to claim 85, Christel discloses that during presentation of the video visually highlighted respective images are highlighted in a substantially regular interval while the sequence of the presentation of the video is at substantially irregular intervals (Figure 6).

Referring to claim 86, Christel discloses presentation of the different segments may be modified by a plurality of different functions, and wherein the user may customize another function, not previously explicitly provided, by combining a plurality of the plurality of different functions into a single function (page 5, column 1, lines 9-11 and Figure 6).

Response to Arguments

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3. Applicant's arguments, filed 1/30/06, have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Ahmad. The arguments related to Christel not disclosing two different types of semantic event data in the timelines displayed are persuasive. Ahmad also teaches a media data summarizing system obtaining data that is relevant from the media data with different graphic bars displaying various types of semantic data, the visual indications being different from each other. Both teachings being video summary systems indicate that based on teachings of Ahmad, the displaying of visual indications for two different types of semantic event would be obvious.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record on form PTO-892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111(c) to consider these references fully when responding to this action. The documents cited therein teach the method for presenting video data. Responses to this action should be submitted as per the options cited below: The United States Patent and Trademark Office requires most patent related correspondence to be: a) faxed to the Central Fax number (571-273-8300) b) hand carried or delivered to the Customer Service Window (located at the Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314), c) mailed to the mailing address set forth in 37 CFR 1.1 (e.g., P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450), or d) transmitted to the Office using the Office's Electronic Filing System. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the


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examiner should be directed to Namitha Pillai whose telephone number is (571) 272-4054. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (571) 272-4048. All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Namitha Pillai
Assistant Examiner
Art Unit 2173
April 7, 2006



RAYMOND J. BAYERL
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2173